Abolition of posts in Central Government offices

213. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Expenditure Reforms Commission had identified 42,000 posts for abolition in the offices of Central Government while Government have identified only 23,900 posts and if so, the reasons for different figures in both the cases; and

(b) how many posts have since been abolished and by when the entire identified posts would be abolished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) ERC had identified around 42,000 posts for abolition in different Ministries/Departments. The recommendations in this regard were forwarded to the concerned Ministries/Departments for implementation. On further scrutiny the concerned Ministries/Departments identified around 23,900 posts for abolition.

(b) Around 13,900 posts have been abolished so far. Efforts are being made to abolish the remaining posts.

Transfer of bilateral assistance

214. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stop taking bilateral aid and pre-pay part of its bilateral debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far it would reduce the interest burden; and

(d) whether Government also propose to transfer this bilateral assistance to other developing countries which need greater official development assistance aid and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to discontinue receiving aid from all countries except Japan, UK, Germany, USA, European Commission and the Russian Federation. India would also prepay the outstanding bilateral debt to countries other than Japan, Germany, USA and France.